



OUR LADY OF ASSUMPTION CATHOLIC SCHOOL

125 Glenmount Ave Toronto, Ontario

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December 2020^S

PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

Dear Parents/ Guardians

The virtue of the month of **December** is **Charity**. This is a wonderful opportunity to discuss with your children the importance of helping those who require assistance. People can require assistance for various reasons, some need financial help, some people feel lonely and some people are touched by illness. This has been a difficult year for so many people, so let us all remember those in need and support each other whenever possible.

We have had a start to the new school year like no other. I am very proud of our students and parents for being resilient, enthusiastic, and positive about their learning.

The virtual students have done a great job in participating in a learning model that requires discipline and motivation. I am so proud of how they have become learning colleagues with members from other schools in the St. Anne online school community.

This has shown a great deal of flexibility and perseverance.

I am also very proud of our face to face students and teachers who have become accustomed to safety routines which are often challenging to adhere to. They are wearing masks regularly, staying in their cohorts and following numerous other protocols.

I am proud of both the online and face to face teachers of Our Lady of the Assumption. Both groups have courageously gone above and beyond to meet the needs of the students in front of them in these turbulent and unpredictable times.

In this first week of advent we celebrate **HOPE**. There is so much to **HOPE** for currently. Collectively we hope for the eradication of COVID and pray that no more people will be affected. We **HOPE** for courage to live through these difficult times and we are filled with **HOPE** as we anticipate the celebration of the birth of our saviour Jesus Christ.

Let us have a blessed Advent season as we await Christmas Day!!

Ms. Teresa Silva

Teresa Silva

PRINCIPAL ⓘ

Shawna Campbell 416-222-82828, ex2267

SUPERINTENDENT ⓘ

Maria Rizzo-416-512-3405

TRUSTEE ⓘ

Our Lady of Assumption Parish
2565 Bathurst Street

PARISH ⓘ

Ms. Gerlie Popatco/ Ms .Zeny Ramos

CSPC CHAIR ⓘ

www.tcdsb.org/cpic

www.tcdsb.org/oapce-toronto

OAPCE TORONTO ⓘ
(PROVINCIAL VOICE FOR PARENTS)

Enrollment 354
Virtual 128/ Face to Face 226

NEW REGISTRANTS WELCOME

Apply online: soar.tcdsb.org
Call **416-393-Phone#** or the **TCDSB Admissions Department** at 416-222-8282, ext. 2383.

For general information about the Toronto Catholic District School Board, please visit the website at www.tcdsb.org

Stay in touch with the latest news throughout the school year:
Follow **@TCDSB** on Twitter.

TORONTO CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD TRUSTEES 2019 - 2020

Wards

- | | |
|--------------------------------|--------------|
| 1. Joseph Martino, Chair | 416-512-3401 |
| 2. Markus de Domenico | 416-512-3402 |
| 3. Ida Li Preti | 416-512-3403 |
| 4. Teresa Lubinski | 416-512-3404 |
| 5. Maria Rizzo | 416-512-3405 |
| 6. Frank D'Amico | 416-512-3406 |
| 7. Michael Del Grande | 416-512-3407 |
| 8. Garry Tanuan | 416-512-3408 |
| 9. Norm Di Pasquale | 416-512-3409 |
| 10. Daniel Di Giorgio | 416-512-3410 |
| 11. Angela Kennedy, Vice-Chair | 416-512-3411 |
| 12. Nancy Crawford | 416-512-3412 |
| Taylor Dallin, Student Trustee | 416-512-3413 |
| Kathy Nguyen, Student Trustee | 416-512-3417 |

Drop off and Pick Up

Please continue to drop your child off in the morning and refrain from lingering. Parents and teachers have been doing a great job with the staggered dismissal and entry times.

When you are stopping your vehicle to drop off your children, please ensure that busses have ample room to park. Often cars have stopped, and busses have little room to park and drop children off. Busses require a lot of space as they are obviously quite large so please allow space.

Passports

Please continue to complete your children's passports each day. The parents are the foremost individuals in assessing whether their child is healthy to come to school. When the passport is not complete, office staff must call home and wait for a response which delays your child from entering the classroom for sometimes up to half an hour. Thank you for your co-operation with this.

Back to School Attestation Forms

Public health now requires that parents sign a form indicating their child is well enough to come back to school. Please check off the situation that applies to you and send it signed to school with your child. The link to the form is in the Monthly Report from the Board section. It is the first link under important information. Please print this form out for your purposes. If you don't have a printer, we will send one home with your child. I have also attached it below and it is being sent home with students today.

<https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9095-Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf>.

Virtue of the Month Students

Congratulations to the following students who demonstrated the virtue of Gratitude.

Virtue of the Month: P E A C E

Ms. Szakola (JK&SK) -Jo-Lee Sutherland (JK)

Ms. DiStefano (SK& Gr 1) -Naomi Lemlem (gr. 1)

Ms. Pignataro (Grade 1 & 2) -Joshua Castillo (gr. 2)

Ms. Maher (Grade 2) -Elizabeth Arzumanyan (gr. 2)

Ms. Pena-Vital (Grade 3) -Gherylle Galvan (gr. 3)

Ms. Rozowski (Grade 4 & 5) -Gina Maccarone (gr. 4)

Ms. Furiato (Grade 5 & 6) -Angel Afrifa (gr. 6)

Mr. Ciraco (Grade 6 &7) -Mary Grace Valencia (gr. 6)

Ms. LeBlanc Carr (Grade 7 & 8) -Matt Gastilo (gr. 7)

MS. Nicholson (Grade 8) -Iana Refol (gr. 8)

Reporting Absences

When students are sick or unable to come to school please call the Safe Arrival Program. It is far too busy in the office to record absences and this program has been in use by the board for 3 years now. You have 3 options to record the absence.

1. Call 1(833)251-3286 (toll free)
2. Online – go.schoolmessenger.ca
3. School Messenger App

Your co-operation in this matter is greatly appreciated.

Public Health Presentation

This Friday, December 4th, 2020, our public health nurse will be offering the entire parent community a COVID education session. I will be sending out the zoom link to all parents at 10AM that morning. We sincerely hope that you will be able to join us. There will be lots of great information and you will be able to have all your questions answered. I hope to see you then.

Dress Down Days

Each Friday this month we will be having a dress down day with some type of Christmas theme. We are asking that each student bring a loonie/toonie on each of the days. The donations from 2 of the Fridays will go to the Our Lady of the Assumption Parish St. Vincent de Paul society. The donation from the other Friday will be going to the various needs of the school.

Friday, December 4th- Christmas Gear/Accessory Day

Friday, December 11th- Red and Green Day -Christmas Color Day

Friday, December 18th- Cozy Christmas Color Day

Thankyou for your continued support and generosity.

Advent Mass on Youtube

Please follow Our Lady of the Assumption Parish on You tube to watch the live Sunday Masses. We will be celebrating our mass on Tuesday, December 15, 2020.

CSPC Meeting

Please note that our CSPC meeting will take place on December 9th, 2020 at 7PM. The zoom link will be sent to all in the parent community the morning of the meeting.

Sacramental Celebrations

We extend our blessings and congratulations to the students in grade 3 who are having their First Holy Communion on November 7th and November 14th. These students were supposed to receive their sacrament in the spring but due to COVID, were unable to. God bless these students as they grow in faith as a Catholic Community.

Christmas Holidays

Please note the last day of school will be December 18th. Students will return to school January 4th, 2021.

Have a wonderful and safe holiday season! We look forward to welcoming the children back in the New Year.

Guidance Corner

During the season of Advent, encourage your child to be charitable towards others. Forgiving past hurts, extending the hand of friendship, and including those who are marginalized, is a wonderful way to put our monthly virtue of **Charity** and our faith into action.

<https://www.parents.com/parenting/money/donate-to-charity/9-ways-to-teach-your-child-about-charity/>

<https://redtri.com/how-to-introduce-the-concept-of-charity-to-your-kids/>

The After 8 Student Transition Guide and Transition Guide for parents are available on the TCDSB website:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/ProgramsServices/SchoolProgramsK12/GuidanceCoopEd/Transition%20to%20High%20School/Pages/default.aspx>

All About Me student portfolios through www.myblueprint.ca offer opportunities for students to document and reflect on their skills, learning, and interests.

Intermediate students are encouraged to work on their Individual Pathways Plans through their profile on [https://myblueprint.ca](http://www.myblueprint.ca). They can complete a Learning Skills survey, set goals for achievement in school and personal interests, and document their learning in their portfolios.



God gave his greatest gift to us on that first Christmas day and may the wonder of it always guide and light your way. May you have the gift of faith, the blessing of hope and the peace of His love at Christmas and always. May joy be your gift at Christmas and may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year.

I wish you and your families a peaceful Christmas season, as well as health and happiness for the coming year!

Ms. D'Alfonso
(Elementary Guidance Counsellor)

Monthly Update from the Board December 2020 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

COVID-19 Resources and Information

This is a reminder that the attestation form needs to be completed and returned to our child's school if they are returning after being ill. <https://www.toronto.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/10/9095-Attestation-for-Return-to-School.pdf>.

As you are aware from the last communication you received, families will have the opportunity to switch learning models at each quadmester for secondary and at the end of term 1 for elementary. The next opportunity to switch learning models will take place during the January to February timeline.

For other updates and information relating to COVID-19, please see

- **Frequently Asked Questions:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/forstudents/back-to-school/pages/faq.aspx>
- **Resources:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/resources.aspx>
- **TCDSB Reopening Plan:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/reopening-plan.aspx>
- **Latest Updates:** <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/latest-updates.aspx>

For information specifically about the virtual school (St. Anne Catholic Academy) please refer to <https://www.tcdsb.org/FORSTUDENTS/back-to-school/Pages/virtual-school.aspx>



Sign Up for School Messenger for Absence Reporting and More

The student absence reporting system is also used to send critical and urgent messages from your school, and from the school Board. For more information <https://go.schoolmessenger.com>.

Get Updates on School Bus Service

<https://busplannerweb.torontoschoolbus.org/Cancellations.aspx>

PARENT OPPORTUNITIES & INFORMATION

OAPCE Toronto Meeting Dates/Agendas

The next meeting is **Tuesday, December 8** which is also the commissioning ceremony. Please note the previously listed November date was incorrect.

Transition to High School Guidelines

Public Consultation: Policy S.P. 03, Age-appropriate Placement: Curriculum and Program Supports – New Deadline

The Toronto Catholic District School Board (TCDSB) is in the process of creating a policy on Age-appropriate Placement: Curriculum and Program Supports, Policy S.P. 03. The TCDSB is committed to the learning of all students and provides a range of differentiated placements, programs, and interventions to support student success. While the TCDSB adopts the Ministry of Education mandate of placing students in age-appropriate settings ([Ontario Schools, Kindergarten to Grade 12](#), p.52), it also commits to providing individualized accommodations to students with abilities/disabilities in order to enable them to have meaningful access to education services.

Details: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TCDSB-Community-Consultations/Pages/PolicySP03Age-appropriatePlacement.aspx>

This survey will be open until **Friday, January 22 at 3:00 PM** (please only submit one response). All responses will remain confidential.

Catholic Parent Involvement Committee (CPIC) Annual Report

<https://www.tcdsb.org/FORPARENTS/ParentInvolvement/Publications/Documents/cpic-annual-report-2019-2020.pdf>

Reminder: School Year Calendar for 2020-21 including PA Days

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Calendar/PAandExamDays/Documents/tcdsb-school-year-calendar-2020-2021.pdf>

Virtue of the Month for December: Charity

Resources and information:

<https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/NurturingOurCatholicCommunity/VirtueoftheMonth/Pages/Default.aspx>

OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS

Virtual Focus Groups for Black Students

The Equity Department is working on the Board's Dismantling Anti-Black Racism (DABR) Strategy and wants your input in its development.

Career Discovery Expo

Hosted by Dream Big Toronto on **Wednesday, December 9** from 6 - 8:30 p.m., this FREE event invites **young women in Grades 7 to 12** explore new career pathways. Registration required.

EVENTS AND OBSERVANCES

December Observances

- December: **Virtue of the Month: Charity**
- December 2: **International Day for the Abolition of Slavery**
- December 3: **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
- December 6: **The National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence against Women**
- December 8: **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary**
- December 7 - 13: **Hour of Code Week**
- December 10: **International Human Rights Day**
- December 11: **Hannukah (Judaism - Festival of Lights)**
- December 18: **Last day of class before Christmas break**
- December 24: **Advent ends**
- December 25: **Christmas**
- December 26: **Kwanzaa begins**

December Meetings

- **December 2 - Special Education Advisory Committee**
- **December 3 - Student Achievement**
- **December 7 - Governance**
- **December 7 - Catholic Parent Involvement Committee**
- **December 9 - Corporate Services**
- **December 10 - Regular Board**

All Agendas and Minutes: <https://www.tcdsb.org/Board/TrusteesoftheBoard/boardmeeting/Pages/BoardMeeting.aspx>

Don't Miss Out on the Latest News and Information:

- Visit the Board's website www.tcdsb.org
- Follow @TCDSB on twitter to get updates throughout the day